Revival of plywood industries in North-East

2495. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) how do Government propose to revive the plywood industries of North-East, which faced closure after the prohibition of cutting wood in the region;

(b) the details of the plan; and

(c) in case there is no plan, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) There is no prohibition on cutting of wood in the North Eastern Region.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Closure of small pesticides manufacturing units

2496. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether small pesticides manufacturing units are facing closure on account of excise duty; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to assist them to compete in foreign market with their export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) The earlier excise duty structure of 18% on technical grade pesticides and 8% on pesticide formulation which had placed small scale pesticides manufacturing units in a disadvantageous position has been rationalised in the recent budget (2000-01) and will now be levied @ 16% on both technical grade pesticides as well as formulation. This is in response to the problems projected by small scale pesticides manufacturing units. The Government is also extending Market Development Assistance through various Export Promotion Councils to assist small scale manufacturers and exporters to compete in foreign markets.

Coconut as a cash crop

2497. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :